

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2005

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We urge you to retain an important provision, sponsored by Senator Durbin in the final FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, which protects the integrity of scientific advice and information in federal agencies.

The House of Representatives adopted a similar provision in an amendment barring the use of funds to appoint members of scientific advisory panels on the basis of political affiliation. The Senate-approved language defines that prohibition to include an appointee's political affiliation, voting record, and political opinions.

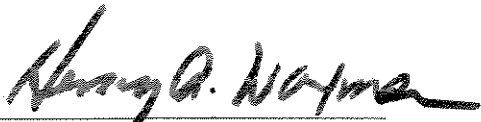
This provision is of critical importance. As the federal government confronts challenges to the nation's health, it must have policies based on the best scientific advice. The National Academies of Science recently reaffirmed the importance of non-political committee members, stating, "It is inappropriate to ask them to provide nonrelevant information, such as voting record, political-party

affiliation, or position on particular policies.”¹ This appropriations language ensures that government advisors are chosen for their expertise, not for their political views.

The Senate language also bars the use of funds to disseminate scientific information that is deliberately false or misleading.

With both the Senate and House including language to uphold scientific integrity in federal agencies, we believe that the final bill must include strong provisions on this important issue. We urge you to retain the Senate-approved language on scientific integrity in the final FY2006 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

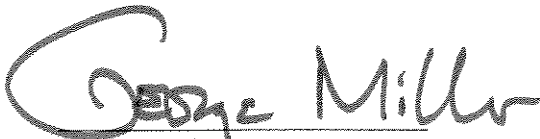
Sincerely,



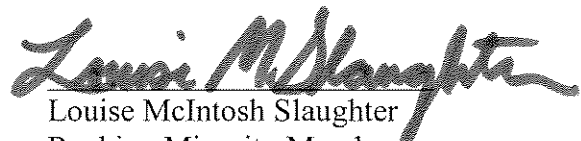
Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform



Bart Gordon
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Science



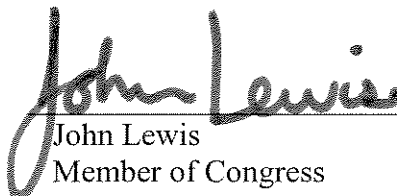
George Miller
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce



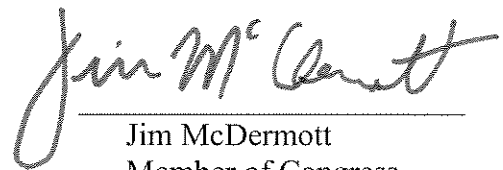
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Rules



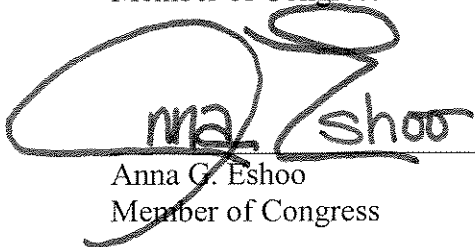
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



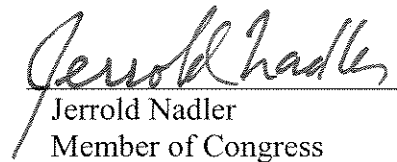
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress





Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress




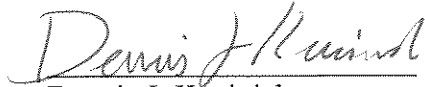
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress


¹ National Academies of Science, Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy, *Science and Technology in the National Interest: Ensuring the Best Presidential and Federal Advisory Committee Science and Technology Appointments* (Nov. 17, 2004).

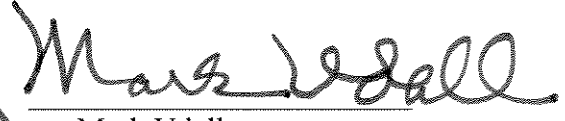

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Tom Allen
Member of Congress



David E. Price
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